

Extension history

Demand increases for community leadership education

Extension has been teaching leadership to kids through 4-H for decades. In the 1980s and '90s, Extension saw that Minnesota communities needed more informed adult leaders. Believing that anyone who cares about a community issue can learn to lead, Extension recruited local leaders to attend programs such as Family Community Leadership, Supporting Community Diversity, Building Common Ground and Northwest Emerging Leadership. In two decades, 700 Emerging Leadership and U-Lead program graduates have boosted their skills in leadership, citizen involvement and the legislative process. Today, many of those participants are senators, legislators, mayors or board presidents. Extension educators now teach more than 25 different leadership programs every year.

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